

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of producing a negative electrode using a negative electrode black mix containing a negative electrode material composed of a mixture of a non-carbon material and a carbon material, comprising the steps of:

pulverizing and classifying each of the non-carbon material and the carbon material in an inert gas atmosphere;

mixing the non-carbon material and the carbon material in an inert gas atmosphere; and

applying the negative electrode black mix on a negative electrode collector and drying the negative electrode black mix in an inert gas atmosphere or a dry air atmosphere,

wherein a ratio of an average particle size R_M of the non-carbon material in the negative electrode active material to an average particle size R_C of the carbon material in the negative electrode active material is in a range of $R_M/R_C \leq 1$, and

wherein a ratio of a weight W_M of the non-carbon material in the negative electrode active material to a weight W_C of the carbon material in the negative electrode active material is in a range of $W_M/W_C \leq 1$.

Claim 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: hot-pressing the negative electrode black mix,

wherein the hot-pressing is performed in one of an inert gas atmosphere and a dry air atmosphere.

Claim 5. (canceled).

Claim 6. (currently amended) A method of producing a non-aqueous electrolyte battery, including a positive electrode containing a lithium composite oxide; a negative electrode containing a negative electrode material composed of a mixture of a non-carbon material in or from which lithium is doped or released and a carbon material, said negative electrode being disposed opposite to the positive electrode; and a non-aqueous electrolytic solution used as a non-aqueous electrolyte interposed between the positive electrode and the negative electrode, said method comprising the steps of:

winding the negative electrode into a wound body in an inert gas atmosphere or a dry air atmosphere; and

pouring the non-aqueous electrolytic solution in the non-aqueous electrolytic battery in an inert gas atmosphere or a dry air atmosphere,

wherein a ratio of an average particle size R_M of the non-carbon material in the negative electrode active material to an average particle size R_C of the carbon material in the negative electrode active material is in a range of $R_M/R_C \leq 1$, and

wherein a ratio of a weight W_M of the non-carbon material in the negative electrode active material to a weight W_C of the carbon material in the negative electrode active material is in a range of $W_M/W_C \leq 1$.

Claim 7. (canceled).